

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 111, 112 and 113 on S. 2426, H. Con. Res. 75, H. Con. Res. 121, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea. My flight, JetBlue 2224, was delayed by 1 hour and 20 minutes.

CHALLENGES WITHIN THE  
POLITICAL PROCESS**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Arjun Luthra attends Clear Springs High School in League City, Texas. The essay topic is: Challenges within the political process.

Within the US political system, there is an iron triangle which defines the spheres of influence and relationship between the United States Congress, the bureaucracy and the interest groups. Along with these groups, the executive branch influences the appointments of justices and bureaucratic officials. Concerns regarding public policy are placed on the shoulders of numerous institutions. What makes the political process so challenging is to ensure there is reconciliation of the political interests of these numerous institutions like Congress, which represents individual districts and states, and the President, which represents the overall nation.

The President, Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, agencies and interest groups are all involved in the budgeting process. The President bears responsibility of presenting the Budget to Congress while the Congressional Budget Office advises Congress of potential consequences of budget decisions. Within the process, the agencies provide projection of budgetary needs. The complexity of the process and shared roles among the institution often require adaptation or reconciliation. For example, in 1973, President Nixon refused to disburse appropriated funds of Congress. This led to the Budget Impoundment Act which transferred power of President to Congress. This particular historical example not only demonstrates a check and balance system, but also exemplifies the challenges in the political process.

In addition to budget, legislation becomes difficult to enact either due to political gridlock due to divided government or party polarization. This gridlock has led to a re-

stricted number of bills that pass through the congressional committees. Only 4 percent of bills introduced to Congress become law and only about 6 percent of bills reach floor debate. Furthermore, discussion of bill is restricted by the closed rule in the House, which places time limit for debate and restricts amendments. While in the Senate, senators can request for a filibuster, which extends time of debate. This allows members of the Senate to push their interests forward and often prevent discussion of other legislation proposed.

In essence, the political process is challenging especially in creating the political agenda and reaching specific goals set by the numerous governmental institutions. Today, hot topics in the political agenda include gun control, education and immigration policies. Although pushing for funds and legislation that yields long-term benefits for the constituents is challenging, the political process requires purposeful rather than reckless action that is advantageous to the United States. The political process ensures recognition of the Constitution as a governing document and also ensures a check on the abuse of political power.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,124,286,688,944.60. We've added \$8,497,409,640,031.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. FRIEDA JORDAN—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Frieda Jordan, of Glendale, California.

After graduating from high school in Tehran, Iran, Frieda Jordan moved to England, where she received a BSc and a PhD in Biochemistry from King's College London. She also became a Certified Histocompatibility Specialist with the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. Dr. Jordan is currently the Director of DNA Molecular Typing at Foundation Laboratory, and is a laboratory inspector with the European Federation for Immunogenetics representing Armenia. Prior to her work at Foundation Laboratory, Dr. Jordan was Associate Director of

the Human Leukocyte Antigen and Immunogenetics Laboratory at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Dr. Jordan has dedicated an extraordinary amount of time and energy in serving her community through her medical and scientific expertise. She is co-founder and president of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), as well as chair of its "Support Group" for patients and their family members. ABMDR, which was founded in 1999, recruits and provides matched unrelated donors for stem cell or bone marrow transplantation to patients who are facing life-threatening blood disorders. ABMDR has identified more than 3531 potential matches for patients all around the world, and has facilitated 26 stem cell transplants. This organization has also brought new medical technology to Armenia, where it established a Stem Cell Harvesting Center in 2009.

Dr. Jordan is an active member and participant of various medical organizations including the Armenian Medical Association, the World Marrow Donor Association, the National Marrow Donor Program, and the European Federation for Immunogenetics. An accomplished speaker, Dr. Jordan has given presentations at numerous conferences and workshops in the United States and around the world.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Frieda Jordan, for her extraordinary service to the community.

## IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH HEFFERS, THE 2016 GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF SAINT PATRICK MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Heffers, who was named Man of the Year by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick for the year 2016.

Joseph is the son of the late John Heffers and Mary Golden Heffers. He was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Pittston High School. He attended Wilkes-Barre Business College and earned a degree in Business and Accounting. He served in the Army from 1964 to 1967 in the Special Troops United at Fort Dix, New Jersey and was named Soldier of the Month during 1966. He worked at Eberhard Faber in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania as Project Manager for 21 years, receiving the President's Award from Eberhard Faber in 1986. He later worked at Cooper Industries in Weatherly as a Production Specialist and retired from InterMetro Industries in Wilkes-Barre. Joseph then managed the Metro Wire Federal Credit Union in Plains from 2001–2010.

He is a former President of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and received the Achievement Award in 2010. He was the historical speaker at the 100th anniversary banquet at the Friendly Sons in 2015. He is on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army in West Pittston. And, finally, Mr. Heffers is a former financial secretary of President